

photo by Joe MazzaBrave Lux

# MUD ROW

## BY DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU
## DIRECTED BY MALKIA STAMPLEY

## OCTOBER 15 - NOVEMBER 15, 2026

THEATER WIT, 1229 W. BELMONT AVE,
CHICAGO, IL 60657

## Land Acknowledgement

The stories we tell today rise from the ground sown by the story-tellers who have come before. Chicago is the traditional homeland of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawotami nations, as well as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Fox, and the Illinois Confederacy of the Peoria and Kaskaskia nations. In 1830 Congress forcibly stripped these tribes of their land by passing the Indian Removal Act which led to relocation, poverty, and starvation. We wish to recognize the many indigenous people who continue to call Chicago home, who serve as stewards for their cultures and guardians for their land and waterways. We also wish to acknowledge the violent history of the space we use today. We are learning how to take more accountability and responsibility for the land we also call home.

## Mission

Remy Bumppo expands and enriches our community's view of the world, and our own, by producing both the great plays of the past and the important plays of today. As an ensemble-driven theater company, we author a more humane culture as we listen to, and seek to understand, the voices, the ideas, and the stories of one another.

## Value Statements

We believe in….

**Language:** We cherish beautiful language–clear, precise, and nuanced–in the service of great storytelling. Words are the building blocks of knowledge and shape the ideas that shape our world.

**Learning:** We champion the humanities as a force for examining ourselves, appreciating and understanding others, and exploring worlds we inhabit and those we discover. Using reason and imagination, we ask questions, prize complexity, embrace ambiguity, and challenge assumptions.

**Diligence:** We strive to maintain an aesthetic of clarity and precision in our work through research and preparation, and through creating with courage and joy. This aesthetic informs the entire organization and the day-to-day commitment of the Artists, Board, and Staff.

**Collaboration:** We build community and trust with collaborators through dialogue, respect, and openness. Our best work is done together. Our artistic success depends on the strength and equity of our entire company. Everyone's ideas and imagination have value in the creative process. Every artist is an instrument of curiosity and inspiration.

**Diversity & Inclusion:** We prioritize and pursue a breadth and depth of experiences and perspectives, and cultivate a community where individuals are fully engaged in the work, are a respected part of the whole, and are empowered to bring their all to the art.

**A Healthy Culture:** We create a joyful, compassionate workplace where the audience, artists, staff, and board are respected and supported, ideas are shared without judgment, and curiosity and risk-taking are encouraged. We value humility, see setbacks as learning opportunities, learn from criticism, and find inspiration in the success of others.

REMY BUMPPO *think theatre* 30 *years*

Artistic Director **Marti Lyons**
Executive Director **Margaret McCloskey**

# MUD ROW

Written by
**Dominique Morisseau**

Directed by
**Malkia Stampley+**

Associate Director
**Lo Williams**

Stage Manager
**Jean E. Compton*^**

Assistant Stage Manager
**Mateo Gutierrez**

Violence & Intimacy Designer
**Jyreika Guest**

Dramaturg
**Abhi Shrestha^**

Voice & Text Coach
**Shadana Patterson**

Scenic Design
**Sydney Lynne**

Costume Design
**Evelyn Danner**

Wig & Hair Designer
**Rueben D. Echoles**

Properties Design
**Amanda Herrmann^**

Original Music & Sound Design
**Christopher Kriz^~**

Lighting Design
**Levi J. Wilkins**

Casting Director
**Adelina Feldman-Schultz, Tertulia Creative Solutions**

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**Nancy and Daniel Durbin**

*Mud Row* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

**THEATER WIT, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago**

^ Denotes Remy Bumppo Associate Artist; + Denotes member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society;
* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers;
~ Denotes members of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local 829, AFL-CIO

*Mud Row* was originally commissioned and produced by People's Light, Malvern, PA, as part of their New Play Frontiers program. Abigail Adams, Executive Artistic Director, Zak Berkman, Producing Director.

**“This is what we come from. This is what we pass on. Not the pain or the suffering. But the will to survive.”**

In *Mud Row*, inheritance is more than an idea. Whether biological, psychological, cultural, societal, or metaphorical, inheritance can be a gift or a curse. It can be something to define yourself by or strive against.

As a new(ish) parent, I think a lot about inheritance. I think about what has been passed down to me and what I will pass along to my children. And I want them to know that inheritance may be a foundation of who we are, but it is not a mandate for who we will become.

When I read *Mud Row* I was struck by how Dominique Morisseau examines this theme of inheritance through the story of two sets of sisters across generations. I was moved by how each of her characters strives to forge their own paths while grappling with their inheritances. And I was taken, as always, by Morisseau’s exquisite language and expert storytelling.

When I learned that our ensemble member Tiffany Renee Johnson was interested in performing the piece and that director Malkia Stampley would be game for a collaboration; I knew we had the first show of our 26/27 season. As the rest of our magnificent company and team came together, our staff and ensemble have been thrilled to kick off the year with this remarkable play by Dominique Morisseau.

I hope this play will inspire as many thoughts, questions, and feelings in you, our audience, as it has in me.



**Marti Lyons**
*Artistic Director*

# THE CAST

Toshi ..... **Tiffany Renee Johnson+***
Regine..... **Ayanna Bria Bakari***
Frances ..... **Toccara Castleman**
Elsie ..... **Alexis Janae**
Tyriek ..... **Jabari Khaliq**
Davin ..... **Jamaque Thomas**

***Understudies***

**Maureen Azzun** (Toshi U/S); **Quenna Barrett** (Regine U/S); **Aundria TraNay** (Frances U/S); **Emefa Dzodzomenyo** (Elsie U/S);**Solomon Langley** (Tyriek U/S), and **Brandon Sapp** (Davin U/S).

# PRODUCTION AND DESIGN TEAM

Director ..... Malkia Stampley+
Associate Director ..... Lo Williams
Stage Manager ..... Jean E. Compton^*
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Mateo Gutierrez
Dramaturg ..... Abhi Shrestha^
Costume Designer ..... Evelyn Danner
Wig & Hair Designer ..... Rueben D. Echoles
Scenic Designer ..... Sydney Lynne
Lighting Designer.....Levi J. Wilkins
Assistant Lighting Designer ..... Destiny Garner
Original Music and Sound Designer ..... Christopher Kriz^~
Properties Designer ..... Amanda Herrmann^
Violence & Intimacy Designer ..... Jyreika Guest
Voice & Text Coach ..... Shadana Patterson
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... Gabriela Carrillo
Lighting Supervisor ..... Nick Chamernik
Scenic Supervisor ..... Aubrey Pierce
Scenic Charge Artist ..... Arthur Karson
Assistant Scenic Supervisor ..... Lucas Holeman
Casting Director ..... Adelina Feldman-Schultz, Tertulia Creative Solutions
Artistic Director ..... Marti Lyons+
Executive Director ..... Margaret McCloskey
Creative Producer ..... Christina Casano
Production Manager ..... Matthew R. Chase
Development Manager ..... Missy Preston
Patron Services and Communications Manager ..... Molly Sharfstein
Operations Manager ..... Ael Diehm

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**The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.**

**Two hours and 15 minutes with one intermission**

**Remy Bumppo is a professional theater company operating under an agreement between the Producers Association of Chicago Theaters and Actors' Equity Association.**

**Designers identified by USA are members of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local 829, AFL-CIO**
**^ Denotes Remy Bumppo Core Ensemble Member; ^ Denotes Remy Bumppo Associate Artist; +Denotes member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society; * Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers; ~ Denotes members of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local 829, AFL-CIO**

# THE CAST



**ALEXIS JANAE** (*she/her*, ELSIE) a television and stage actress and proud Milwaukee native, is excited to be making her Remy Bumppo Theatre Company debut in one of her favorite plays, *Mud Row*, by Dominique Morisseau. Other Chicago credits include: *Chicago Lore(s)* (Urban Theater Company) and "Chicago Med." Alexis values performing work that speaks to the truth of the human experience in all of its complexities. Her recent credits include: *Crowns: A Gospel Musical* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre), *McNeal*, where she understudied and performed (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), and *A Christmas Carol* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). Alexis is represented by Stewart Talent Agency. And thanks her friends and family for their unwavering support.
IG: @AlexxisJanaee



**TOCCARA CASTLEMAN** (*she/her*, FRANCES) is an African American multidisciplinary writer (*Maybe a Mexican, Escaping Inward, I Choose You, Baby*) and actress (*Gee's Bend*, Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre; *Confederates*, Redtwist Theatre; *I Don't Want to Play Myself*, The Tank NYC) from the South Side of Chicago who uses the lens of comedy to explore the themes of second acts, dreams deferred and self discovery in her work. In addition to theatre, Toccara creates art across a variety of mediums including digital media (NBCUniversal, [Emmy® Award, Interactive Extension of a Linear Program, 2020], TIME Inc.) and print journalism ("UPTOWN Magazine," "The Network Journal"). Toccara is a proud Dramatists Guild member, Chicago Dramatists Resident Playwright and Redtwist Theatre ensemble member. She is deeply proud and honored to be making her Remy Bumppo Theatre Company debut with Malkia Stampley at the helm. Toccara has an MFA in nothing, is represented by no one and yet, still she rises… W: ToccaraCastleman.com



**AYANNA BRIA BAKARI*** (*she/her*, REGINE) is a Governing Ensemble Member of The Story Theatre. She graduated with a BFA in acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Some of her Chicago theatre credits include: *Andy Warhol Presents: A Cocaine Play* (Associate Dir. & Wig Design at Jackalope Theatre); *Big White Fog* (Court Theatre); *Purpose* and *Last Night and the Night Before* (Steppenwolf); *Relentless* and *Too Heavy for Your Pocket* (TimeLine Theatre); *Relentless* and *How to Catch Creation* (Goodman); *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare); *The Niceties* (Black Theater Alliance Award); *Stickfly* (Writers Theatre); *Pot Girls* (Director at The Story Theatre); *At The Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* (Asst. Director, 2019 & Wig Design, 2025 at The Story Theatre); *Leave Me Alone!* (The Story Theatre). Regionally, her theater credits include: *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Seattle Rep); *The Colored Museum* (Studio Theatre); *The Salvagers* (Asst. Dir. at Yale Repertory Theatre); *Clyde's* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *Sunflowered* (Northern Sky Theater); *The Rainmaker* (Peninsula Players); *The Originalist* (Indiana Repertory Theatre). Ayanna Bria's television credits include recurring roles in "Wu-Tang: An American Saga" on HULU and "The CHI" on Showtime along with guest roles on "Chicago PD," "Chicago Fire," "Empire" on FOX, and "61st Street" now streaming on Netflix and "Holiday Heist" on BET. She is represented by Stewart Talent.
@AyannaBakari_ #BlackLivesMatter



**JAMAQUE THOMAS** (*he/him*, DAVIN) is an actor and writer out of Fort Lauderdale. His credits include *Two Out of Three Falls* (Factory Theater), *God of Carnage* (Kane Rep), *Big Time Toppers* (Theatre L'Acadie), *The Police* (Chopin Theater), *Twelfth Night* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (American Players Theater), *Party at the Pantheon* (Factory Theatre), and *The Brothers Size* (American Players Theater). Understudying roles in *The Tale of Two Cities* (Shattered Globe), *East Texas Hot Links* and *The Island* (Court Theater). Chicago is home where his love for words and theater education continues to grow.



**TIFFANY RENEE JOHNSON*** (*she/her*, TOSHI) a proud ensemble member, is excited to return to the Remy Bumppo stage. Theatre credits include: *Blues For An Alabama Sky*, *Passage* (Remy Bumppo); Broadway Tour of *Jaja's African Hair Braiding; Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play* (Goodman); *Chlorine Sky* (Steppenwolf); *Red Velvet* (Chicago Shakes); *The Garbologists* (Northlight); *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *A Doll's House* (Writers); *Flyin' West* (American Blues); *truth and reconciliation* (Sideshow); *Race* (Next Act). TV: "The Chi," "Shameless" (Showtime); "Chicago Med," "Chicago P.D." (NBC); "Soundtrack" (Hulu). Film: "Range Runners." When Tiffany is not acting, she is writing for film or somewhere trying to encourage the people in her path to follow their dreams and to walk in their purpose. To God be every bit of the glory. Represented by: Gray Talent Group. TiffanyReneeJohnson.com @TiffanyReneeJ_



**JABARI KHALIQ** (*he/him*, TYRIEK) is a Chicago-based actor, photographer, videographer, and writer. Previous credits include: *Anne & Emmett* (DuSable Museum), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Goodman Theatre), *Splash Hatch on the E Going Down* (Definition Theatre), *The Hot Wing King* (Writer's Theatre), *Purpose* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *The Lifespan of a Fact* (TimeLine Theatre), *The Nacirema Society* and *Toni Stone* (Goodman Theatre), *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* (Congo Square), and *Black Magic* (Perceptions Theatre). TV/Film credits include "Chicago PD" (NBC Universal), "15 Lines" (short), "Rhythm & Blu" (feature) and "Shed" (short). He is represented by Stewart Talent. IG: @Jabari.Khaliq and W: JabariKhaliq.com



**EMEFA DZODZOMENYO** (*she/her*, ELSIE U/S) is an actor, improviser and writer based in Chicago! She has performed at The Second City, The iO Theater, and in *Morning, Noon, and Night* with Shattered Globe Theatre. She is passionate about comedic TV, stories centering the African Diaspora and long walks by Lake Michigan. Currently, you can see her perform with D.A.R.E. Dropouts at iO!



**AUNDRIA TRANAY** (*she/her*, FRANCES U/S) is excited to make her Remy Bumppo Theatre debut with *Mud Row*. A Chicago-based actor and singer, her theatre credits include *The Totality of All Things* (Redtwist Theatre), *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* (Pegasus Theatre) and *cullud wattah* (U/S Resee/Plum, performed) at Victory Gardens Theatre. Her television credits include "Chicago P.D." (NBC). She holds a B.F.A. in Acting from AMDA College of the Performing Arts. When she isn't onstage, Aundria can be found coaching high school students in acting, storytelling, and performance—helping young artists discover the power of their own voices. She is represented by Lori Lins Ltd.



**QUENNA BARRETT** (*she/her*, REGINE U/S) a Chicago native, is a performer, director, facilitator, and writer, specializing in devised and social justice theater. Performance credits include: *The House That Will Not Stand* (u/s Invictus), *Splash Hatch on the E Going Down* (Definition Theater), *Sexuality out Loud* (FYI/ICAH), *Don't Go* (Sojourn Theatre Company), *Radio Golf* (u/s, Court Theatre), *The Green Book* (Pegasus), *American Revolution* and *Moon Shot* (Theatre Unspeakable). Quenna received her BFA from NYU Tisch in drama, her MA in applied theatre from the University of Southern California, and her EdD (Doctorate of Education) in educational theatre at NYU Steinhardt. W: QuennaLene.com Socials: @QuennaLene



**BRANDON SAPP** (*he/him*, DAVIN U/S) was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He received his B.F.A in Acting from Northern Illinois University and intensively studied under Sanford Meisner's acting method. Most recent theatre credits include: *Grease* at Metropolis Theatre, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* at Rose Theatrics, *Dreamgirls* at The Drama Group, *A Night With You* at Second Site, *Rent* at Rose Theatrics, *The Polar Express Train Ride* (Chicago), *Eurydice* at Writers Theatre in Glencoe, IL, *The October Storm* at The Raven Theatre in Chicago, IL, *Trouble in Mind* (U/S) at Timeline Theatre in Chicago, IL, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Ohio Shakespeare Festival in Akron, and *Oh, Romeo and Juliet*, *Tubman: Road to Freedom*, and *A Christmas Carol* at Great Works Theatre in Chicago, IL. This is Brandon's first year with Remy Bumppo Theatre and he is so excited to be part of a piece of work that explores family legacy, class, race, and sisterhood in an extremely bold way.



**MAUREEN AZZUN** (*she/her*, TOSHI U/S) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Chicago. She is a first generation Nigerian American organically from Oklahoma and Kansas. Working both in theatre and on camera, her work often deals with the Black experience and how those stories shape the world through a wider lens.



**SOLOMON LANGLEY** (*he/him*, TYRIEK U/S) is from Smithfield, Virginia and is grateful to be a part of this cast. Credits: *Mud Row* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *The Jackie Wilson Story* (Black Ensemble), *Anthony Rapp's: Home For The Holidays* (Lookingglass Theatre), *fire work* (Theater Alliance), *Twisted Melodies* (Northlight Theatre), *Fat Ham* and *fire work* (Unicorn Theatre), *Julius Caesar, The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival), *Seven Guitars* and *The Amen Corner* (KC Melting Pot Theater), *Choir Boy* (Zeider's American Dream Theater), *A Soldier's Play* (Virginia Arts Festival), *The Wiz, The Tempest* and *A Christmas Carol* (Virginia Stage Company). Commercial: US Foods, NFL's Vet To Vote, Costco, and Chinet. Education: MFA in acting and directing at UMKC Conservatory and BA in drama and theatre, Norfolk State University. Represented by Gray Talent Group.

# PRODUCTION AND DESIGN TEAM



**DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU** (*she/her,* PLAYWRIGHT) is the author of *The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle): Skeleton Crew* (Atlantic Theater Company/Broadway, Tony Award nomination for Best Play), *Paradise Blue* (Signature Theatre) and *Detroit '67* (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: *Bad Kreyòl* (Signature Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club), *Confederates* (Signature Theatre), *Pipeline* (Lincoln Center Theatre), *Sunset Baby* (LAByrinth Theatre), *Blood at the Root* (National Black Theatre), and *Follow Me To Nellie's* (Premiere Stages). She is the Tony Award-nominated bookwriter on the Broadway musical *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations* (Imperial Theatre) and is currently working on her latest, *Hippest Trip – The Soul Train Musical* (ACT). TV/Film: co-producer on "Shameless" (Showtime), the film adaptation of the documentary "STEP" (Fox Searchlight) and consultant on the Netflix animated feature, "Tunga." Awards include: PoNY Fellowship, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBTF August Wilson Playwriting Award, Wyndham Campbell Prize, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, OBIE Award (two), Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, one of *Variety*'s Women of Impact for 2018, and a MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow. In 2022, Dominique was awarded the key to the city by the Mayor of Detroit.



**MALKIA STAMPLEY** (*she/her*, DIRECTOR) makes her Remy Bumppo Theatre Company debut directing *Mud Row*. Currently, she leads producing at Goodman Theatre as the BOLD Artistic Producer since 2021. Stampley is also a facilitator with Court Theatre's Civic Actors Studio and teaching artist for Remy Bumppo. She co-founded Bronzeville Arts Ensemble in 2013 and the Milwaukee Black Theater Festival in 2020. She is a Black Excellence Award Recipient for Directing (*Primary Trust* at the Goodman), twice Jeff nominated, and a BOLD Artist with the BOLD Women's Leadership Circle. Theater directing credits include Goodman Theatre, Rivendell, Kansas City Rep, Northern Sky Theater, TimeLine, Shattered Globe, Raven Theatre, Black Arts MKE, First Stage, Skylight Music Theater, American Players Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Chicago Shakes, Milwaukee Black Theater Festival, Farmers Alley Theatre, and Milwaukee Fringe Festival. She is a member of SDC and a LORT Mentorship Committee member.



**LO WILLIAMS** (*she/her*, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR) is a storyteller based in Chicago who centers work that reimagines, reshapes, and reclaims representation in theater for the global majority. With a background in hip-hop theater and new works, she has been involved in the development of world premieres of new theatrical productions in the capacities of producer, director, playwright and actor. Selected Chicago directing credits: *City of Water* (PULSE Theatre Co.); *Exception to the Rule* (A Short Leap Theatre Co.). Selected assistant directing credits: *Iceboy!* (Goodman Theatre), *Bad Kreyòl* (Signature Theatre & Manhattan Theatre Club); *Frozen* (Children's Theatre Co.); *Richard III* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Williams is an alumna of the National Theater Institute and holds a B.F.A. in theatre arts from the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts at the illustrious Howard University.



**JEAN E. COMPTON***^ (*she/her*, STAGE MANAGER) is glad to return to Remy Bumppo as an associate artist, having stage managed *Dear Elizabeth*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Galileo's Daughter, Anna in the Tropics*, *Passage*, and *Hedda Gabler.* She is a collaborator and new works booster whose Chicago credits include *A Tale of Two Cities* (Shattered Globe), *A Lie of the Mind* (Raven), *Paradise Square* (Pre-Broadway), *Thirst* (Strawdog), *The Death of Gaia Divine* (Momentary), *3:35PM, Candide,* and *Mudpie 2018* (Mudlark), *You for Me for You* (Sideshow), *Lizzie* (Firebrand), *Shining Lives* (Northlight), and *The Miscellany, All-One! The Dr. Bronner's Play*, and *Spirits to Enforce* (Passage Theatre). Her regional credits include *Into the Breeches!* (Cleveland Play House), *Birthday Candles, Indecent, Blood at the Root, Commedia, A Midsummer Night's Dream, An Octoroon,* and *Into the Breeches!* (Chautauqua Theater Company), *Venus in Fur* and *The Whale* (Rep Stage), and seasons at Two River Theater and Cleveland Play House. She is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. W: JeanECompton.com

**MATEO GUTIERREZ** (*he/him*, ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is so excited to work with Remy Bumppo. He graduated this past summer with a bachelor of arts from Dominican University and is so excited to step into the professional world with such a powerful and rich show. Past credits include *Shane* (production manager; City Lit Theater), *Uncle Vanya* (lighting assistant; The Edge

Off Broadway), and *Company* (stage manager, Dominican University). Outside of being dressed in all black for productions you can find him enjoying coffee, relaxing, and seeing other wonderful shows across the city of Chicago!



**ABHI SHRESTHA^** (*they/them*, DRAMATURG) is a Chicago based theatre educator and dramaturg originally from Kathmandu, Nepal. They are the Director of Education and Engagement at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Resident Dramaturg and Community Organizer for the Chicago Inclusion Project, and a proud board member of the Illinois Caucus of Adolescent Health. Abhi has spent over a decade cultivating a theatrical and administrative practice that champions youth agency and empowerment. Abhi believes deeply in the liberatory power of arts education and views theatre as a civic engagement modality.

**EVELYN DANNER** (*she/her*, COSTUME DESIGNER) is happy to make her Remy Bumppo design debut with *Mud Row*. Chicago credits include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Covenant, Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Gem of the Ocean,* and *Swing State* at Goodman Theatre. *No Such Thing* and *Wipeout* at Rivendell Theater. Other regional credits include *Ring of Fire, Trying,* and *The Rainmaker* at Peninsula Players, Fish Creek, WI; *You're A Goodman Charlie Brown* at Marriott Theater; *Don't Make Me Over-In Tribute to Dionne Warwick* at Black Ensemble Theater; *Crowns, Swamp Baby, Quark, Divine Order of Becoming, Bodies, Warm on the Cooling Board, When Good Broccoli Goes Bad, Blacademics, Sweet Home, Ten Square, Relative Hearsay, Milk,* and *Trouble The Water* at MPAACT Theater. Film credit: "The Gilded Six-Bits" (West Side Theater Guild).



**RUEBEN D. ECHOLES** (*he/him*, WIG/HAIR DESIGNER) is an accomplished playwright, director, choreographer, illustrator, costume and wig designer. He has had the pleasure of working with many theater companies across the country and in the Chicagoland area. His most recent projects include: Wig Design: *A Bronx Tale* at The Rev Theater (NY) *Smoke* at TTO (Boston), *Tartuffe* at Cleveland Playhouse, *Covenant* at Goodman Theater, *Ma' Rainey's Black Bottom* at The Goodman Theatre, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* at Indiana Repertory Theatre, *Hello Dolly* at Olney Theater Center, *Dreamgirls* at Paramount Aurora and North Carolina Theatre Company, *Sister Act* and *Women of Soul* (Jeff nomination for Artistic Specialization) at Mercury Theater Chicago, *Fat Ham* at Cleveland Playhouse, *Stokely* and *Lion in Winter* at Court Theatre. Costume Design: *How I Learned What I Learned* at Congo Square Theater, *A Lot to Unpack* at Eta Creative Arts, *Fela* at Olney Theater Center, *The Color Purple* at Phoenix Theater Company, *You Can't Fake The Funk* at Black Ensemble Theater (Jeff award winner for Best Costume: Design Large). Rueben has also designed costumes for four episodes of WTTW's Chicago Stories docu- series, two of which ("Ida B. Wells" and "The History of Gospel") have won Emmys for best production. Rueben would like to Thank Christ his Savior for Everything!

**SYDNEY LYNNE** (she/her, SCENIC DESIGNER) is a Chicago-based scenic designer and civic artist, specializing in crafting world-building experiences. Her exploration of live arts environments stems from an award-winning career in theatrical scenic design, featuring over 75 different productions in 20 different cities. Her recently recognized Chicago productions include *Andy Warhol Presents: The Cocaine Play* (Jackalope Theater Company), *Men of Soul* (Black Ensemble Theater), *Twelfth Night* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *What To Send Up When it Goes Down* (Lookingglass Theater/Congo Square Theater), *Tambo & Bones* (Refracted Theater Co), and *Oak* (Raven Theater and About Face Theater). Her most recent scenic design engagement was for the touring production of *Hell's Kitchen* on Broadway. ~To those who got me here, thank you. ***sL***

**LEVI J. WILKINS** (*he/him*, LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a Chicago-based multidisciplinary theatre designer and director with more than 20 years of experience in live performance. He began lighting at age 13 and has since designed work across Chicago and nationally, including productions with Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Baltimore Center Stage, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, Dallas Theater Center, TimeLine Theatre Company, A Red Orchid Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Definition Theatre, Black Ensemble Theater, and ETA Creative Arts Foundation, among others. A seven-time Joseph Jefferson Award nominee and 2024 3Arts Award recipient in Theatre, Levi approaches both design and directing through bold visual storytelling, collaboration, and creating theatrical worlds that deepen the audience's connection to the story.

**DESTINY GARNER** (ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER)

**CHRISTOPHER KRIZ^~** (*he/him*, ORIGINAL MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN) is an award-winning composer and sound designer based in Chicago. Previous Remy Bumppo designs include: *Frankenstein* (Jeff Award), *Hedda Gabler, Dear Elizabeth, Love Song, Galileo's Daughter,* and many others. A winner of seven Joseph Jefferson Awards, Christopher has designed hundreds of productions for companies in Chicago including Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, Northlight, Court, Chicago Shakespeare, Writers, Paramount, Timeline, Victory Gardens, Shattered Globe, and many others. Regional design credits: Seattle Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory, Indiana Repertory, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Repertory, Peninsula Players, TheatreSquared, American Stage, Montana Shakespeare, Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and others. Christopher is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829 and is represented by the Michael Moore Agency. To hear more of his work, visit www.ChristopherKriz.com.

**AMANDA HERRMANN^** *(they/them,* PROPERTIES DESIGNER) is pleased to be returning to Remy Bumppo this time as an artistic associate. Previously they have worked on *Love Song, Galileo's Daughter, Routes, Top Girl Frankenstein, Hang, Pirandello's Henry IV,* and *Fallen Angels*. Other Chicago credits include *Circus Quixote, Lucy and Charlie's Honeymoon, Her Honor Jane Byrne, Frankenstein, Acts of God, Steadfast Tin Soldier, Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas, Plantation, Hard Times,* and *Moby Dick* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Anna Karenina* (Joffrey Ballet), and *How to be a Rock Critic* (Steppenwolf Theater), Amanda is a graduate of Ripon College with a BA in theater and art.

**GABRIELA CARRILLO** (*she/her*, WARDROBE SUPERVISOR) is a Chicago native artist in the costume world. She was previously the wardrobe supervisor at Remy Bumppo for the production of *'ART.'* Her credits as costume designer are *All My Sons* (Warehouse Theatre) and *Alabama Story* (Ghostlight Ensemble). She graduated from Northern Illinois University with a BFA in theatre design and Roosevelt University with an MA in art administration. ¡Esto es todo para los latinos que quieren trabajar en el arte!

**NICK CHAMERNIK** (*he/they,* LIGHTING SUPERVISOR) is a Chicago-based lighting designer and technician, and is excited to be back hanging lights for Remy Bumppo on his ninth production with the company since 2022. Recents credits include; Remy Bumppo Theatre Company: *Wish You Were Here, 'ART,' Dear Elizabeth, Love Song, Blues for an Alabama Sky, Galileo's Daughter, Anna in the Tropics, Passage* (lighting supervisor). Chicago Children's Theatre: *Frederick, Go Dog Go/ Ve Perro ¡Ve!, The Magic City, The Beatrix Potter Holiday Party, Milo Imagines the World* (lighting supervisor). Theater Wit: *Inanimate, Household Spirits* (head electrician). Shattered Globe Theatre: *Radial Gradient*, *This Wide Night* (head electrician). Goodman Theatre: *The Antiquities* (run crew), *The Who's Tommy* (projections operator).



**AUBREY PIERCE** (*she/her,* SCENIC SUPERVISOR) graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul with a major in theatre technology. While she was there, she technical directed *Little Women* at the Merle Reskin Theatre. She has worked at Timeline Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Ravenswood Studios, City Lit, Studebaker Theatre, Broadway Playhouse and Chicago Scenic Studios as a carpenter. She was the scenic supervisor for Remy's *Hedda Gabler*.

**ARTHUR KARSON** (SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST)

**LUCAS HOLEMAN** (ASSISTANT SCENIC SUPERVISOR)

**SHADANA PATTERSON** (*she/her*, VOICE & TEXT COACH) is an actress and educator who is happy to return to Remy Bumppo where she previously served as Dialect Coach for *Blues for an Alabama Sky.* Other dialect and vocal coach credits include: *Covenant*, *The Nacirema Society*, *LUCHA TEOTL*, and *Highway Patrol* (Goodman Theatre); *Three Little Birds* (Young People's Theatre of Chicago); *From the Mississippi Delta* (Lifeline Theatre); *Nat Turner in Jerusalem* (American Players Theatre); and *Toni Stone* (Milwaukee Rep/Alliance Theatre).



**JYREIKA GUEST** (*she/her*, VIOLENCE & INTIMACY DESIGNER) is an actor, dancer, and intimacy coordinator/ director in Chicago. Her work can be seen onstage and onscreen as it exhibits the nuance of character development in movement and physical storytelling in relationships. The work she does with actors, artists, and dancers builds security in ensemble

devising for brave storytelling. Credits include: *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Dance of Death, The Seagull,* and *Thanksgiving Play* (Steppenwolf); *Covenant* and *Antiquities* (Goodman Theatre); *Veal* and *Is God Is* (Red Orchid Theatre); *Pot Gurls* (Story Theatre); *Ain't No Mo* (Woollymammoth Theatre); *Rock of Ages* (Paramount Theatre); *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* and *Champion* (Lyric Opera); *Sheepdog* (Shattered Globe); *Frontpage, Gaslight, Brooklyn Laundry, Little Women, Selling Kabul, Intimate Apparel,* and *Fireflies* (Northlight Theatre); *The Light* (Coalescence Theatre); *October Storm*, *The Last Pair of Earlies*, and *Hoodoo Love* (Raven Theatre); *First Deep Breath* - Asst. (Victory Gardens). Film/TV: Starz Power Book Series, "Force."

**ADELINA FELDMAN-SCHULTZ** *(she/her,* CASTING DIRECTOR) is an Argentine-American casting director, actor, and consultant. She is a proud member of The Chicago Inclusion Project, serving as both co-program manager of the Active Anti-Racism training workshop and as a casting assistant. As one of the co-founders of the annual Chicago Inclusion Auditions (formerly Chicago Theatre Access Auditions), Adelina has helped introduce dozens of theatres to hundreds of up-and-coming Chicago actors. Casting credits include *Wish You Were Here* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company); *La Havana Madrid, Bernarda, Enough to Let the Light In, Somewhere Over the Border* (Teatro Vista); *Chicago Lore(s), Brujaja!, Back in the Day* (Urban Theater Company); *La Ofrenda, Roots in the Alley* (Adventure Stage Chicago); *Inicios Series* (CLATA); *In His Hands, Pro-Am, Hatefuck, Botticelli in the Fire* (First Floor Theatre); Firebrand Theatre and several web series, short films, and commercials. 2018 Nominee, 2019 Winner, ALTA Award: Casting Direction.

**MARTI LYONS^** (*she/her,* ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**)** most recently directed the Jeff-nominated *'ART'* by Yasmina Reza, *Love Song* by John Kolvenbach and *Galileo's Daughter* by Jessica Dickey at Remy Bumppo Theatre Company. Lyons also directed *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* at Northlight Theatre, *Wife of a Salesman* by Eleanor Burgess at Milwaukee Rep*, Sense and Sensibility* adapted by Jessica Swale at American Players Theatre and the world-premiere of *John Proctor is the Villain* by Kimberly Belflower at Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C. Selected other credits include: *The Niceties* by Eleanor Burgess at Writers Theatre; *Cymbeline* at American Players Theatre; *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe and *Kings* by Sarah Burgess at Studio Theatre; the world-premiere of *How to Defend Yourself* by Liliana Padilla, a Victory Gardens and Actors Theatre of Louisville co-production; *Cambodian Rock Band* by Lauren Yee at Victory Gardens and City Theatre; *Witch* by Jen Silverman at Geffen Playhouse and Writers Theatre (LA Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Direction); *Native Gardens* by Karen Zacarías at Victory Gardens; *Botticelli in the Fire* by Jordan Tannahill at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; *I, Banquo* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *Title and Deed* by Will Eno at Lookingglass Theatre Company, and Laura Marks' *Bethany and Mine* at The Gift Theatre. Lyons is also an ensemble member at The Gift Theatre and a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

**MARGARET McCLOSKEY** *(she/her,* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) has been with Remy Bumppo since 2014 and has served as executive director since 2020, working closely with the artistic director to develop and steward strategic initiatives for organizational sustainability. Previously, she served as a fundraising consultant with Aaron Consulting in New York City, managing high-level fundraising campaigns for a number of East Coast organizations. Other past positions include development director at Ox-Bow School of Art, as well as roles at the Ford Foundation, Blue Man Productions, Chicago Opera Theater, Rotary International, and the League of Chicago Theaters. Theatre is her first love, and she holds an MFA in playwriting from the New School for Drama in New York City and a BFA from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

**CHRISTINA CASANO** (*she/her,* CREATIVE PRODUCER**)** is a theatre artist based in Chicago. Her training includes a BA in theatre from Miami University, Victory Gardens Theater's Director's Inclusion Initiative, and the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Summer Professional Training Program. Selected directing credits: *Dear Elizabeth* (Remy Bumppo), *I Build Giants* and *Poison* (The Plagiarists), *Henry IV Pt. 1* (Starling Shakespeare Company), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stone Soup Shakespeare), *Plaid As Hell* (Babes With Blades), *Grape Leaves* (workshop, Avalanche Theatre + Silk Road), *Socks & Co.* (workshop, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre), *Work in Progress* (workshop, The Plagiarists) *How To Murder...* (workshop, Bramble Theatre), *Blood of My Mother's* (workshop, Wayward Sisters), *Deep Shadows* (audio drama, EFCT), and *Fame Heaux* (staged reading, Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival). Other favorite projects: *Short Shakes! Romeo & Juliet* (Asst. Dir., Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *How To Defend Yourself* (Asst. Dir., Victory Gardens), *Bury Me* (Asst. Dir.,

Dandelion Theatre), *The Light Fantastic* (Asst. Dir., Jackalope Theatre). She is the former artistic director of The Plagiarists (2020-2024). W: CMRCasano.com.

**MISSY PRESTON** (*they/them,* DEVELOPMENT MANAGER) is a passionate musician, production manager, festival producer, band manager, event and partnership coordinator, and (of course) theatre lover. Having previously been called "A Professional Shapeshifter", Missy has found joy helping build and manage productions, events, partnerships, and concerts all over the Chicagoland area. Recent professional projects include production & partnership manager for Q101's Twisted Xmas Series 2023 at The Aragon Ballroom, producer for The Schaumburg Halloween Carnival 2022 / 2023 at Wintrust Stadium, development lead and vendor coordinator for Windy City Smokeout 2023 at The United Center, production & partnership manager for Cumulus Radio's AHOY Concert 2023 at The Salt Shed, and production manager and coordinator for The Budweiser Concert Series 2023 at Gallagher Way. Missy also finds joy in hiking a lot, supporting local artists, assisting in small start-ups and building out dreams, playing rock and roll shows, and hosting small local events with a focus on building safe queer spaces in Chicago. Their personal music project/rock band is called The God Awful Small Affairs.

**MOLLY SHARFSTEIN** (*any*, PATRON SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER) is a Chicago-based dramaturg, puppet artist, and arts administrator. She focuses on new work development, primarily for puppet-based works and performances about environment and ecology. She is currently the resident dramaturg on *House of the Exquisite Corpse* (Rough House Puppet Arts), a dramaturg for Pocket Theatre, and Theatre L'Acadie's new play incubator. She is also the VP of Media and Engagement for The Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. She holds a BFA in theatre arts from The Theatre School at DePaul University. Selected dramaturgy credits include: *House of the Exquisite Corpse VI: Lullabies* (Rough House Puppet Arts), *The Ubermarionettes* (Chicago Puppet Studio Residency), *House of the Exquisite Corpse V: Blood and Puppets* (Rough House Puppet Arts), and *Falsettos* (Court and TimeLine Theatre). www.MollySharfstein.com

**AEL DIEHM** (*she/her*, OPERATIONS MANAGER) is a Chicago-based artist of many mediums. She has roots that span the midwest soil, with a legacy in not only artistic pursuits, but political activism and community enrichment programming. From 2019-2021, she served on the National Cohort for Planned Parenthood: Generation Action, where she led a program to expand healthcare access in rural Missouri communities, and successfully lobbied at the U.S. Capitol for its funding. In 2021, she received a Catalyst Award for LGBTQ Activists for her development of the Queer Health Alliance of Mid-Missouri. She has found her role in theater administration to be the crossroads of her experience in operations management and her passion for the arts and community enrichment. Ael is a firm believer that the arts are for all and is proud to work for a theater company which truly embodies that.

***Marjorie Prime***'s cast currently includes Core Ensemble Members:

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# MARJORIE PRIME

BY JORDAN HARRISON
DIRECTED BY JAMES BOHNEN

APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 30, 2027

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Remy Bumppo Theatre Company relies on the generous support of philanthropic organizations and audience members like you to provide over 75% of our annual budget. We are profoundly grateful to the following individuals and institutions whose generosity over the past twelve months has provided the financial foundation for Remy Bumppo's mainstage productions and community engagement programs like the Between the Lines literary lectures and Studio Bumppo classes.



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**IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH E VANSLYKE**
John R. Finnegan

# THERE ARE VARIOUS WAYS TO SUPPORT REMY BUMPPO!

***Please explore the options below and know that your gifts of time and financial support help us present the kind of thought-provoking, talk-provoking work that you have come to expect from Remy Bumppo.***

**INDIVIDUAL GIVING**
Individuals make up over half of all contributions to the company. Gifts of all sizes make a huge difference in the quality of productions we bring to you.

**BUMPPO BOOSTERS - RECURRING GIFTS**
Become a Bumppo Booster and support Remy Bumppo's long-term sustainable growth by making a monthly or quarterly gift of any amount.

**IN-KIND DONATIONS**
Remy Bumppo is always looking for donation of goods or services to help us cut operating costs. If you or your business would like to donate in-kind, contact Missy Preston, Development Manager at mpreston@remybumppo.org.

**VOLUNTEER**
Become a Remy Bumppo volunteer and keep our company thriving! We often seek volunteers to help with office tasks and events. To receive volunteer opportunities via email, contact our Patron Services & Communications Coordinator, Molly Sharfstein at info@remybumppo.org. or by calling **773-244-8119**.

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE**
Blend your professional expertise with your passion for the arts. Interact with a dynamic group of people and play a vital role in Chicago's theater community. To learn more, contact us at info@remybumppo.org.

## VISIT US AT REMYBUMPPO.ORG OR CALL US AT 773-244-8119 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUPPORT REMY BUMPPO!




## At Theater Wit

**We are a theater company within a building, within a community, within a world.**

As a production company, Theater Wit's mission is to be the premier "smart art" theater in Chicago by producing humorous, challenging, and intelligent plays that speak with a contemporary theatrical voice.

As an institution, Theater Wit seeks to be the hub of the Chicago neighborhood theater scene. In our three spaces, we bring together Chicago's best storefront theater companies. Here you will find a smorgasbord of excellent productions, see the work of a parade of talented artists, and mingle with audiences from all over Chicago.

## In the Middle of a Community

Everyone here: folks in the audience... the person who handed you this program.... somewhere on or off the stage there are actors... if you look up in the comer you might get a glimpse of the stage manager in the booth... We're all in this room for the same reason: to be a part of this shared experience. No matter who they are or where they come from; no matter if they are complete strangers or familiar faces; no matter how different the age, the race, or the walk of life; after this performance, you will have something in common. So, strike up a conversation in the lobby, introduce yourself to someone new. Meet our staff, shake hands with an actor, get a drink from our bar. We're all in this together.

## Part of the Chicago Scene

Theater is part of the Chicago experience. Each year, over 200 theaters present thousands of shows to Chicago's loyal and enthusiastic theater-going audience. Chicago's theater community is recognized around the world for its talent, its innovation and its power to entertain and enlighten. If Tony awards were sports championships, our artists would beat out the combined efforts of Michael Jordan, Bobby Hull, Jim McMahon, Jermaine Dye, and the entire Chicago Cubs roster going back 100 years. This stage is a Chicago stage, contributing to the vibrant artistic life of our city and the economic development of our neighborhood. Very few cities on the planet offer the theatrical richness and diversity of Chicago. But you get to share in it. Because you are here.




*ANY TIME*
*ANY SHOW*
*AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE*

# THEATER WIT MEMBERSHIP

$35/month

See any play in our building, any time, as often as you like for one flat monthly fee.

Reserve a ticket for any production in our facility. Do it in advance or just drop by on impulse.

Free ticket exchanges and replacement tickets.

Attend as many different shows as you want each month. Come once, twice or five times a week at no additional charge.

No initiation or startup fee, but members must agree to a three-month minimum.

Twice a year, bring a friend for free.

# FLEXPASS

10 tickets for $275

- See anything in the building at a dramatically reduced price.
- See 10 shows, go on 5 dates, or just bring your 9 closest friends with you to one show.
- After ordering, you get a card in the mail within a week with your Flexpass code which can be used online, over the phone or at the box office

# THEATER WIT STAFF

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JACKELYN NORMAND,
CHRISTIN PRINCE
*Front of House Staff*

# YOU ARE HERE WITH US

## E-NEWS

Stay up to date on all the happenings at Theater Wit. Sign up for our e-newsletter. Get the latest info on show openings and schedules; eavesdrop on production gossip and artistic plans; see behind-the-scenes photos.

- Get a free piece of chocolate when you fill out a mailing list insert and give to any bartender, usher or house manager.
- Sign up online at theaterwit.org/join
- Mailings twice per month. We don't deluge you with messages and we don't sell your name to other lists.

Facebook: facebook.com/theaterwit

## DONATE

Theater Wit is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax-deductible donation supports Theater Wit and supports this building in its role an artistic home for Chicago's best storefront theaters.

- Donate online at theaterwit.org/donate
- Make an instant donation at the box office, the bar, or with our house manager.
- Donate your time and talents! Theater Wit welcomes volunteers for office work, community outreach, building improvements and special events.